Unenlagiinae

Unenlagiinae is a subfamily of dromaeosaurid theropods. Unenlagiines are known from South America and Antarctica.[1] With possible Unenlagiines being known from North America, Madagascar, Europe, and even Australia.[2]

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Description

Buitreraptor skeleton

Most unenlagiines have been discovered in Argentina. The largest was *Austroraptor*, which measured up to 5–6 m (16.4–19.7 ft) in length, making it also one of the largest dromaeosaurids.[3] The subfamily is distinguished from other dromaeosaurids by a tail stiffened by lengthy chevrons and superior processes, sharp articulate claws, and a posteriorly oriented pubis. Their distinct anatomy from Laurasian dromaeosaurids was likely a consequence of the breakup of Pangaea into Gondwana and Laurasia, where the geological isolation of unenlagiines from their relatives resulted in allopatric speciation.[4] A 2020 study performed by Gianechini *et al.*, indicates that the unenlagiine dromaeosaurids of Gondwana possessed different hunting specializations than the eudromaeosaurs from Laurasia. The shorter second phalanx in the second digit of the foot of eudromaeosaurs allowed for increased force to be generated by that digit, which, combined with a shorter and wider metatarsus, and a noticeable marked hinge-like morphology of the articular surfaces of metatarsals and phalanges, possibly allowed eudromaeosaurs to exert a greater gripping strength than unenlagiines, allowing for more efficient subduing and killing of large prey. In comparison, the unenlagiine dromaeosaurids possess a longer and slender subarctometatarsus, and less well-marked hinge joints, a trait that possibly gave them greater cursorial capacities and allowed for greater speed than eudromaeosaurs. Additionally, the

Unenlagiines

Temporal range: Late Cretaceous, 94–70 Ma

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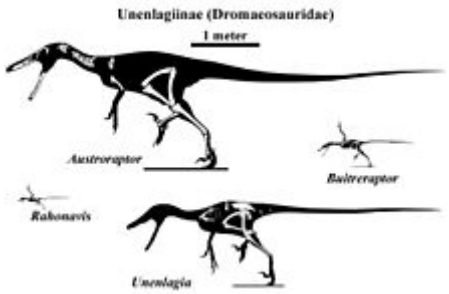
Possible Early Cretaceous record



Many genera of the family

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Clade:	Saurischia
Clade:	Theropoda
Family:	†Dromaeosauridae
Subfamily:	†Unenlagiinae Bonaparte, 1999

Type species

Unenlagia comahuensis
Novas & Puerta, 1997

Genera

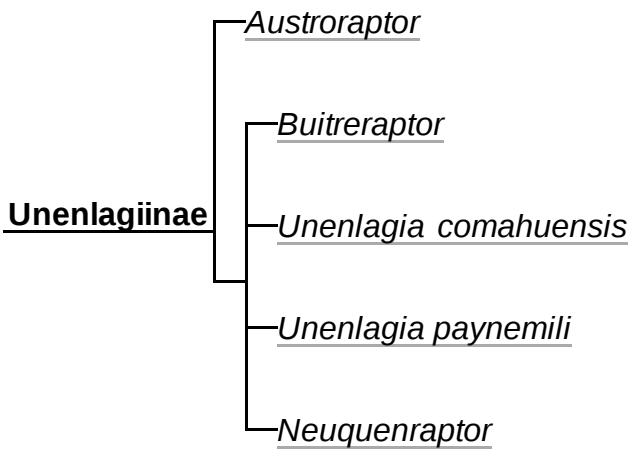
- *Austroraptor*
- *Buitreraptor*
- *Dakotaraptor*?
- *Neuquenraptor*
- *Ornithodesmus*?
- *Pamparaptor*?

longer second phalanx of the second digit allowed unenlagiines fast movements of their feet's second digits to hunt smaller, faster types of prey. These differences in locomotor and predatory specializations may have been a key feature that influenced the evolutionary paths that shaped both groups of dromaeosaurs in the northern and southern hemispheres, respectively.[5]

- *Pyroraptor*?
- *Rahonavis*?
- *Unenlagia*
- *Unquillosaurus*?

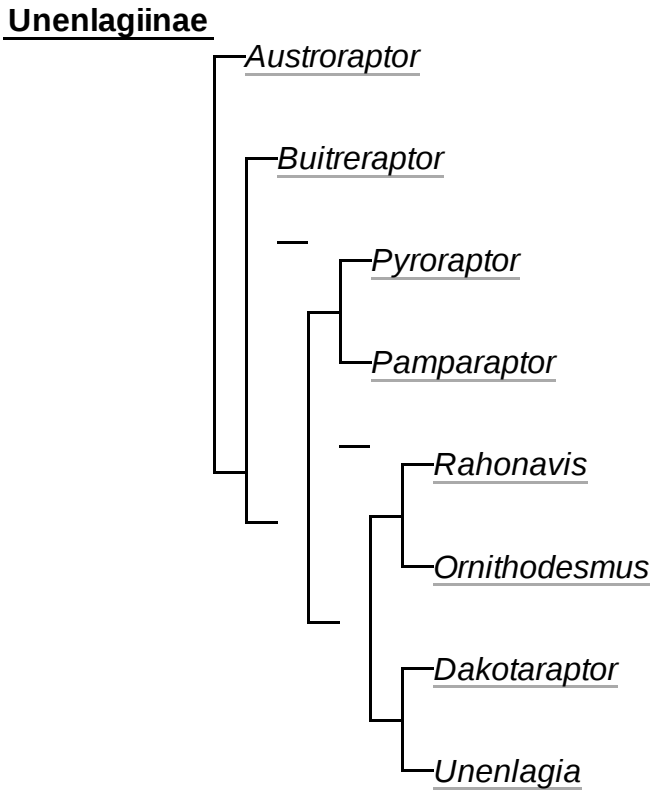
Classification

During the description of Halszkaraptor in 2017, Cau *et al.* published a phylogenetic analysis of the Dromaeosauridae, in which, members of the Unenlagiinae are classified as:[6]



Austroraptor preying on fish, depicting a piscivore life-style

In 2019, during the description of *Hesperornithoides*, many Paravian groups were examined for the inclusion of this new genus, including the Unenlagiinae. The analysis ended in the inclusion of *Rahonavis*, *Pyroraptor*, *Dakotaraptor* and *Ornithodesmus* to the Unenlagiinae.[7]



See also

- Timeline of dromaeosaurid research
- Halszkaraptorinae

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